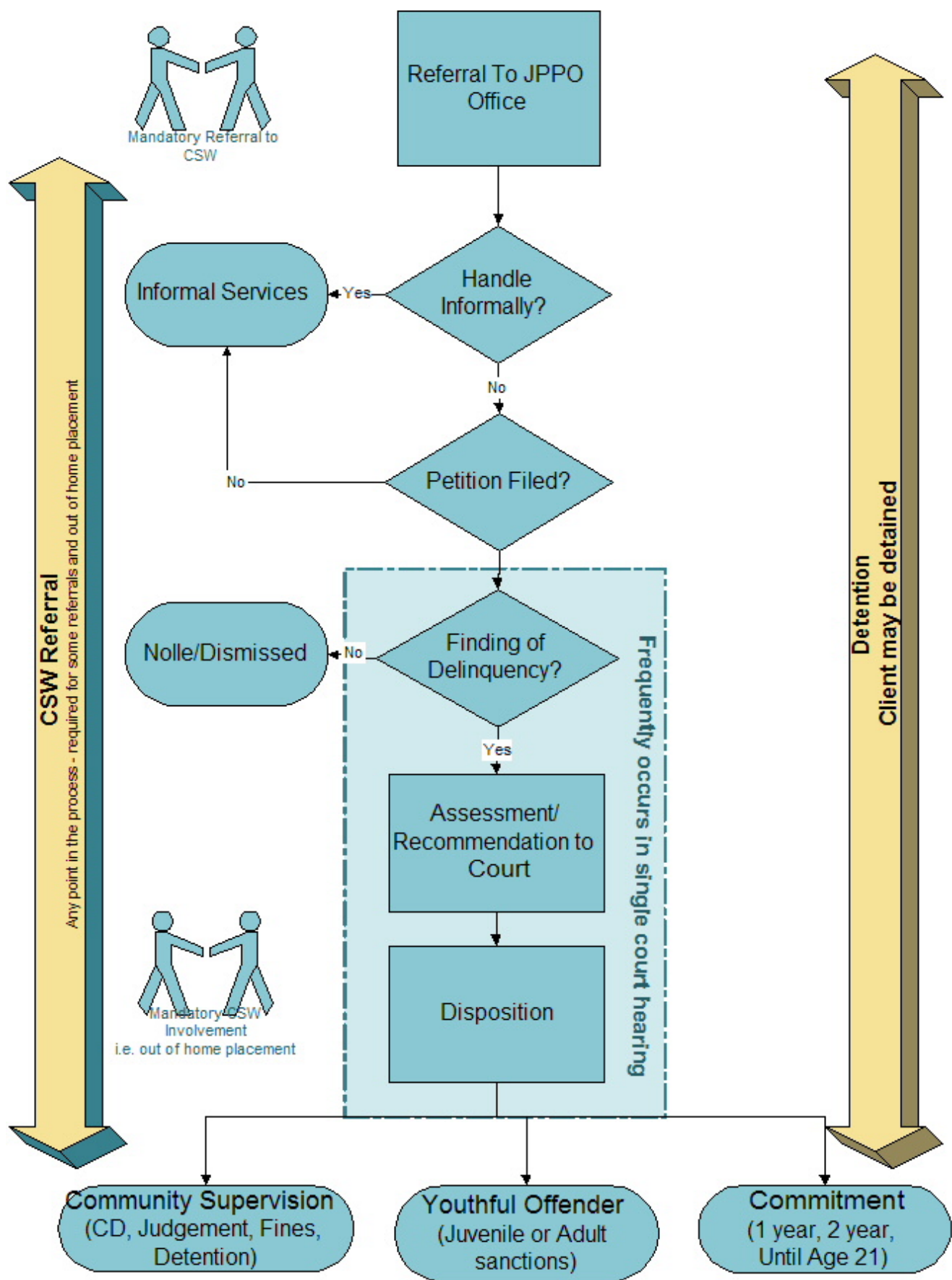


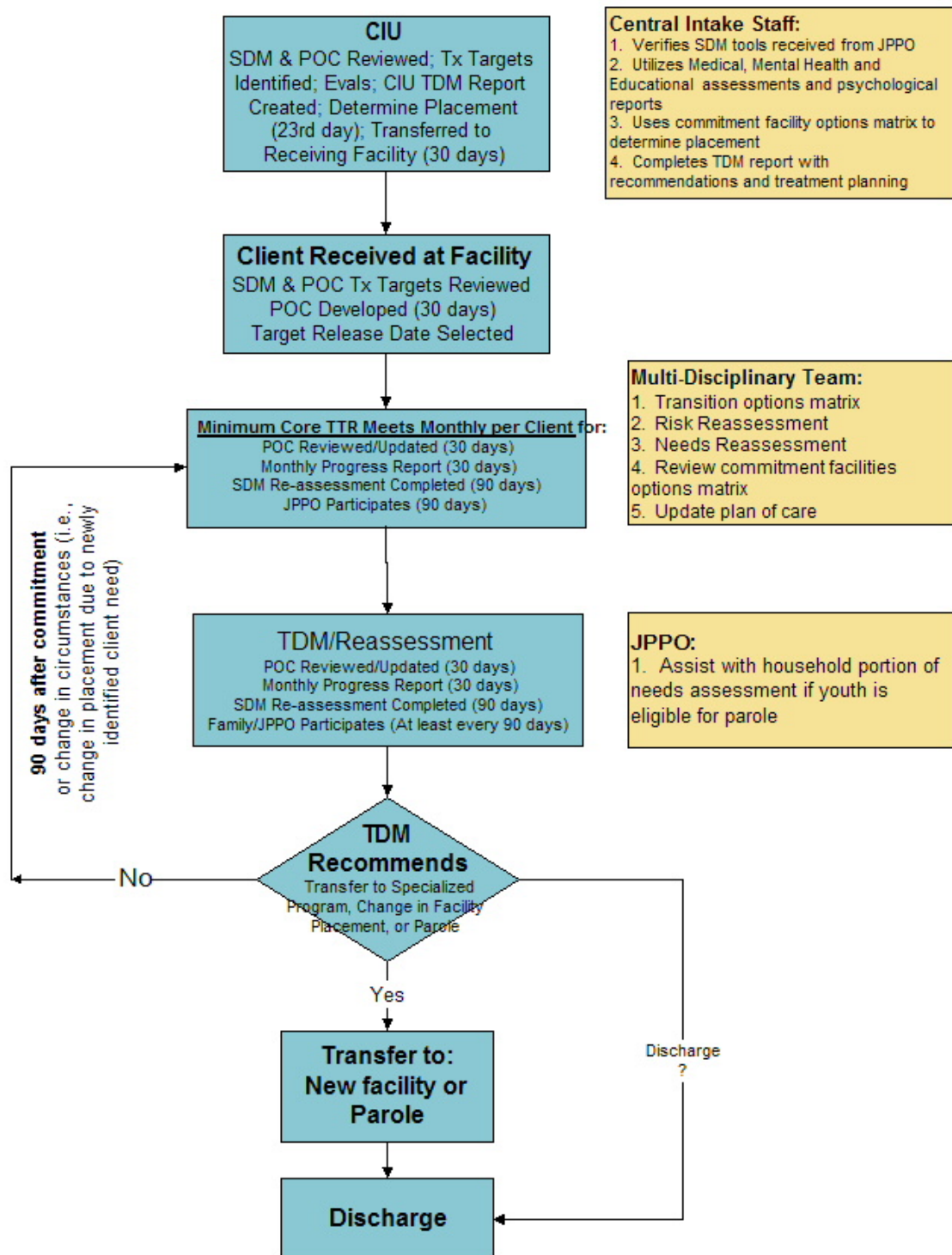
Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center (BCJDC)
Fiscal Data Report for 04/05

**Prepared by Nicol Moreland, Ph.D. and Daniel J. Torres for the
Director of the Juvenile Detention Center, Tom Swisstack**

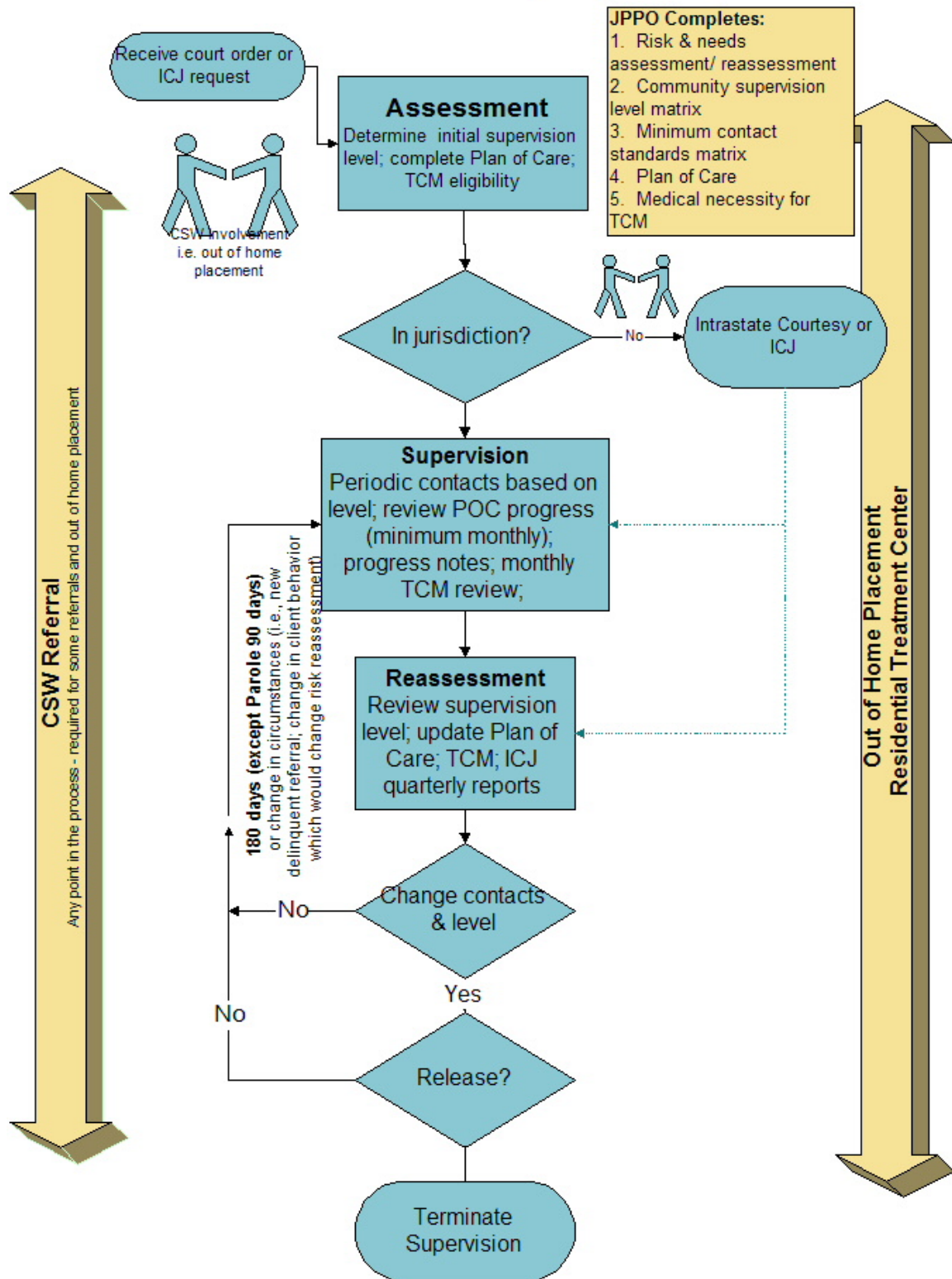
New Mexico Juvenile Justice Division Referral Intake Process



New Mexico Juvenile Justice Division Juveniles in Commitment



New Mexico Juvenile Justice Division Juveniles in Community Supervision



Directors Forward
Tom Swisstack, Director

The mission of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center is to protect the community from those youth placed in our custody in a safe, secure, and humane environment according to principles of Direct Supervision and standards of the American Correctional Association. The Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center is also committed to creating and maintaining alternatives to detention and diversion programs that promote education, healthy lifestyles, and positive choices for youth and their families.

The Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center is an 80-bed facility that houses male and female residents. The facility offers several programs that include education, recreation, therapeutic group activities, and community sponsored activities.

The center is also committed to promoting diversion programs that offer alternatives to detention. We are implementing a community based juvenile justice continuum. The collaborative unites the educational, criminal justice and service organizations that exist in a continuum of services, involving prevention, early intervention, and graduated sanctions.

The continuum of services ultimately helps youth stay in school and out of the juvenile justice system by intervening early and effectively with progressive sanctions. Despite an array of prevention and intervention programs existing in Albuquerque, substance abuse, truancy and violence continue to increase, and many students fail to graduate.

Several projects are underway to reach high-risk adolescents. The programs include education and computer training, counseling collaboratives, substance abuse education and treatment groups, life and employment skills, mental health services, health and HIV education, alternative sentencing, mentorship, and recreation therapy. These programs assist in reducing the

number of juveniles detained in secure detention and reduce their length of stay, without compromising the safety of the community.

Redirecting juveniles from further incarceration through diversion and graduated sanctions is a priority of the collaborative. In partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools, Juvenile Probation and Parole, Children's Court, ABQ Weed and Seed Projects, Advocacy Inc, Behavioral Health Research Center of the Southwest, Albuquerque Parks and Recreation, Albuquerque Community Centers, Albuquerque Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department, and Albuquerque and Hispano Chamber of Commerce, this project will provide services to high-risk youth in the local Weed and Seed Neighborhoods and keep them from encountering the juvenile justice system.

Providing a safe environment for juveniles in the secure detention facility and creating effective diversion programs are the focus and priority of the Bernalillo Juvenile Detention Center.

Introduction

In 2000 BCJDC formed a relationship with the Annie Casey Foundation to begin a detention planning process that would address overcrowding in the detention center, increases in minority confinement, inequitable treatment of females, the development of alternative programs and overall improvement in detention conditions. Since the partnership in 2000, BCJDC has developed several collaborative relationships both within the county and at the state level. A number of different planning groups were developed such as the Warrants Group, Court Processes, Data Group, Steering Committee, Residential Treatment Review and Gender Programming. At the state level we have been able to form vital relationships with their data department. Having the ability to merge both local and state resources on this level will further facilitate a better understanding of how the youth in New Mexico are treated in the juvenile justice system.

A planning group was developed to address ways in which both local and state persons will be able to share, merge and report data on a number of different levels. Currently, both agencies have independent databases and different definitions for variables. We are diligently working to change this. In order to run statistical tests on the state data it must match those variables within the county. Below in the State Collaboration section you will find the beginnings of the consolidation of data between local and state agencies.

For the first time BCJDC is able to produce statistical significant results, and their meaning, in the fiscal report. The culture has really been moving toward a data driven decision-making process. If data is the foundation for decision, one must produce a *statistical* significance between 2 groups in order to show that 2 groups are in effect different. Difference in our context is easily exemplified by the disproportionate contact minorities have with the juvenile justice system. We can now say with a GREAT deal of certainty that minorities are cycled through the juvenile

justice system in New Mexico at a significantly higher rate than other ethnic groups. This, however, does not lend to how or why, or at what level, follow-up tests are necessary. Because the significance test revealed minority disproportion in detention we can additionally say that the test will only be wrong .000 part of the time. The probability that we are wrong is almost zero. These are powerful tools needed to make reform happen.

Having high level statistical testing brings ease to minds that have agreed to be a part of reform. For example, judges who are pressured by reform to release youth and also pressured by the community to protect them can use data analyst to support their decision to either release or hold an individual. Having this statistical resource eases the judge's mind about making mistakes on the bench and feels comfortable in decision-making processes related to reform and public safety. Public safety is a very important component to reform efforts. It is essential that the community not feel threatened by reform efforts. The best way to convince persons that community safety is part of reform is definitely data driven showing that released individuals are not committing new offenses prior to adjudication (See Public Safety section below).

Following are questions Annie Casey has put forward in their Pathways to Juvenile Justice Reform and in part what our aim was this fiscal reporting year. Additional data reported are those data born from the many planning groups.

What laws and statutes govern the detention process? Are there mandatory detention statutes that apply (Children's Code; Appendix A)?

Are minors under adult court jurisdiction detained in the juvenile facility?

What are the characteristics of the detained juvenile population, including personal and offense related information?

What are the characteristics of juveniles released from custody (without secure detention) under current practice?

What are the key detention facility data in relation to average daily population, admissions, length of stay, and other factors?

What loads are placed on the facility by particular sub-populations of detained youth (e.g., probation violators, post-disposition minors awaiting placement)?

What are the system's failure-to-appear and pre-trial re-arrest rates?

What is the juvenile detention process? Who are the detention decision makers at each stage, from apprehension through final disposition? Which case processing practices extend detention stays?

Can the effects of particular case processing delays on detention utilization be quantified?